

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 29 and 38 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 34-36 and 41-47 will remain pending in the patent application.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 34-36 and 41-47 are allowed.

Applicant notes that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 23, 2007 has not been considered by the Examiner. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith a copy of Form PTO 1449 that was enclosed with the Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner return an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO 1449 to Applicant with the next Office communication to indicate that the references have been considered.

Claims 29 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by EP 0670029 to Gammie *et al.* In response, claims 29 and 38 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot the rejection of these claims.

Applicant has addressed all the Examiner's rejections and respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP



CHRISTOPHE F. LAIR

Reg. No. 54248

Tel. No. 703.770.7797

Fax No. 703.770.7901

ERH/CFL/smm
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-7900

Encl: Form PTO 1449 filed with IDS dated January 23, 2007